

I. Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification by inserting the following at the bottom of page 8, after line 14:

An aspect of this specification provides an open architecture method and middleware platform system for implementing a Universal Messaging Gateway (UMG). The system can relate to art directed at delivering network originated telecommunications messaging traffic to a large number of related receiving telecommunications network equipment which may otherwise be disparate in design, and even function. The system can relate to both domestic and foreign network originated telecommunications messaging traffic. The telecommunications messaging traffic can include Multi-Media traffic, interactive and/or synchronous mobile text, and related telecommunications messaging or information services.

The teachings herein can be implemented as part of a computer program product, comprising: a) a computer readable memory medium; and b) a computer program. A common interface for the transmission of telecommunications messaging and/or informational traffic can be provided. The common interface includes articulated elements (i.e., "receiver managers") which interact with external short message entities (ESMEs), Short Message Service Centers (SMSCs) and other such telecommunication network elements. The interaction and mediation can be achieved through logical commands, instructions, manipulations, responses and like acknowledgements with the computer program product and the relevant telecommunications network element. Connection management functionality and the throttling of incoming protocols and like

logical instructions can be provided to prevent excessive utilization of network elements by external entities. A security and network management algorithm can be provided which blocks incoming traffic based upon the service centre from which it was relayed or originated.